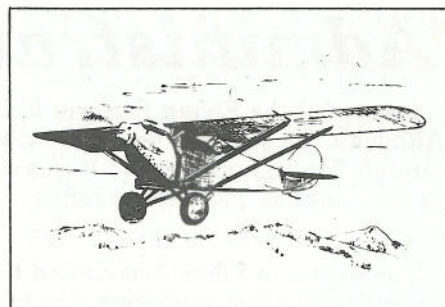


Montana and the Sky



Vol. 32, No. 7

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION

July, 1981

FAA Cuts Five Regional Offices

FAA Administrator J. Lynn Helms has announced a major agency reorganization that will eliminate five of the FAA's eleven regional offices July 1.

The existing regional offices in New York, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and Honolulu will be phased out and their functions merged with the six remaining regions. The regional headquarters retained will be Anchorage, Atlanta, Boston, Seattle, Ft. Worth and Kansas City, Missouri.

The new Western region will be headquartered in Seattle and will be headed by Chuck Foster, who has been director of the Seattle-based Northwest region. Under the organizational change, the Denver, Los Angeles and Honolulu headquarters will be merged with the Seattle regional headquarters, New York with Boston, and Chicago with Kansas City. The Anchorage, Atlanta and Ft. Worth regional offices will remain essentially unchanged.

In announcing the changes, the FAA said the consolidation of regions "will allow greater concentration of staffing and talent in the remaining regional headquarters..." and "is in keeping with the President's program to increase efficiency and productivity in governmental operations."

The FAA reports that no field offices or air traffic control facilities will be closed as a result of the restructuring. The reorganization will result in the elimination of approximately 400 positions and will cost about \$22.3 million to implement. However, the FAA estimates that it will achieve annual recurring savings of \$19.2 million as a result of the changes.



Map above shows current FAA regional boundaries, while lower map shows boundaries that will go into effect July 1.



Missoula Flight Examiner

In the May issue of Montana and the Sky, Mary Severy was listed as the flight examiner for the Missoula area. Since that time Jo Johnson has been appointed as the new flight examiner.

Jo can be contacted at 9250 Sharptail Drive, Missoula, MT 59801, 406/728-9363.

She will be able to administer any FAA written exam except for military competency exams and the instrument foreign pilot exam.

Coppertown VORTAC

The name of the Butte VORTAC will be changed to Coppertown VORTAC effective August 6, 1981. The FAA felt this action necessary to eliminate problems encountered in pilot position reporting between the VORTAC and the Butte airport, which had the same identifier and are located 11.5 nautical miles apart.

Coppertown will be used in description of airspace of Airways V-86, V-113, and V-257 and in the title and description of the Butte control zone and transition area.

Administrator's Column

I attended the Flying Farmers Fly-In at the Langhus Ranch on June 7th. Although the weather was cool with some scattered rain showers, several aircraft flew in for the event. It was a good gathering of Flying Farmer friends at the Langhus' picturesque ranch.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Montana Pilots Association Convention was held on June 12 to 14 in Glasgow. Weather conditions didn't fully cooperate and many folks cancelled, others arrived late, while others had to stay in Glasgow an extra day.

A tour of the Ft. Peck Reservoir as well as the Valley Industrial Park airport were included in the convention.

I'd like to congratulate Lee Baker for being voted into the president's office for a second term and to the other newly-elected officers.

An article detailing new officers and the convention can be found on pages 4 and 5.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The aerospace teacher workshops are currently taking place. We've had great success with the workshops, with speakers from NASA, Beechcraft, Cessna, USFS, the National Association of Aerospace Educators, and Evelyn Sedivy, Supervisor with the Aeronautics Division.

All eight of the workshops have good attendance and should have a tremendous impact on aviation education throughout the state.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

It is with great regret that we are losing Paula Lindsey, my Administrative Assistant. We will all miss Paula, as she has been a big asset to the Aeronautics and the aviation community. Paula and her husband, Glenn, are moving to Great Falls where they will embark on a new career. On behalf of the Aeronautics Division and Board, I wish them success and happiness.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I am pleased to introduce Diane DeRosier. Diane will be taking Paula's job as my Administrative Assistant and also as Editor of our newsletter.

Diane has an excellent background as an administrative secretary. We welcome her aboard and look forward to working with her.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

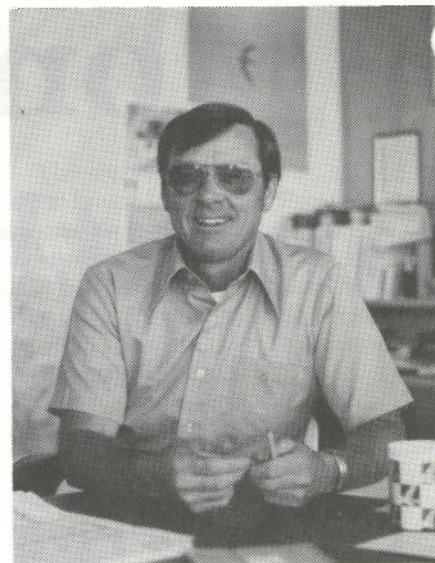
There's an article on page 1 regarding the reorganization of the FAA. Montana will now be in the Western Region with headquarters in Seattle. As many of you know, the Division has been heavily involved in attempting to retain the Airports Engineering Field Office in Helena, which the Denver Regional Office proposed to close. Through efforts of our congressional delegation and many aviation groups, J. Lynn Helms was convinced that the field offices in Helena and Bismarck should remain open.

Mr. Helms, new Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, has drastically changed the organizational structure of the FAA and has stated that the reduction in the regional offices would in no way affect the closure of any of the field offices.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Aeronautics Board met in West Yellowstone on July 8 and 9. The Board was able to tour the airport and inspect the airport improvements that took place during the last construction season.

The Board also held a hearing with Civil Aeronautics Board representatives regarding Aspen Airlines filing to reduce or eliminate service from West Yellowstone to Salt Lake City. Aspen Airlines was selected by the Civil Aeronautics Board to replace Western Airlines, who provided the West Yellowstone-Salt Lake City service for many years.



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Creative Press

Administrator's Column Continued

We are concerned about Aspen's filing since they bid this route and filed to exit or reduce service prior to flying even one flight. The Civil Aeronautics Board had previously determined the essential air service level to be two round trips per day to Salt Lake City. The Aeronautics Board was able to express their concerns to the CAB representatives and outline an approach to provide adequate air service during the summer months.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Your New Editor

Diane DeRosier assumed the position of Administrative Secretary and Editor of "Montana and the Sky" on June 24, 1981.

Paula Lindsey quit the beginning of July and will be moving to Great Falls in the near future. Paula commented how much she's enjoyed working at the Aeronautics Division over the past three years and asked that we convey her appreciation to all who have helped make her job such a great experience.

Diane comes to the Aeronautics Division with excellent experience and recommendations. With your help and cooperation she will soon be thoroughly aviation-oriented.



Diane DeRosier, Administrative Secretary and Editor of Montana and the Sky.

VA Flight Training Saved

Flight training benefits for American military veterans will continue beyond the proposed July 1, 1981 cut-off because of the efforts of aviation and vets organizations.

The federal government will continue to fund a minimum of 60% to a maximum of 90% of the cost of veterans' flight training at least through the end of September and probably through 1986.

Big Sky Acquires Metroliner

Big Sky Airlines has acquired a third 17-passenger Fairchild/Swearingen Metroliner II aircraft to serve its four-state route system.

Terry D. Marshall, President and Chief Executive Officer, said delivery of the company's third Metroliner corresponds in timing with Big Sky's new services to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and Jamestown, North Dakota.

The new aircraft is a pressurized, turbo-prop with a 300-mile per hour cruising speed. "We are expanding our aircraft fleet to meet the rapid increase in demand for transportation in the fast growing energy producing region we serve," said Mr. Marshall.

Big Sky's fleet now includes three Fairchild/Swearingen Metroliner II aircraft, three Handley-Page Jetstream aircraft and three Cessna 402-C aircraft. A fourth new Metroliner is currently scheduled for delivery this fall.

Great Falls Aviation Appreciation Week

The Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the first annual Aviation Appreciation Week from August 17 to 23 and the Great Falls Flying Festival Air Show on August 22 and 23.

Aviation Appreciation Week will be a full week of aviation-related activities, including the following:

Monday, August 17—Joint FAA and Montana Aeronautics Division safety seminar.

Tuesday, August 18—Joint Montana Pilots Association and Civil Air Patrol meeting.

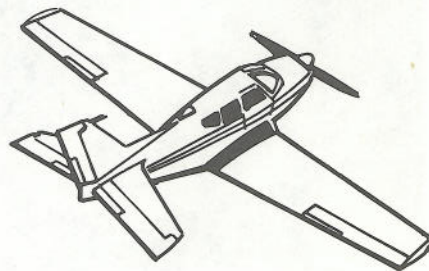
Wednesday, August 19—Aviation employees reception at Sheraton.

Thursday, August 20—Joint FAA and Ultralight enthusiasts meeting.

Friday, August 21—Airport Authority V.I.P. reception and press conference, Ultralight rally.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Great Falls Flying Festival will be presented with performances by Art Scholl, Bob Hoover, Bozeman's Al Newby, Bud Granley, Mike Wigen, Northern Knights, and the U.S. Skydiving Team. In addition, there will be 14 World War II aircraft, a Canadian Forces F-101 team, Ultralight demonstrations, radio-controlled models, and hot air balloons. The show will include static displays of antiques, home-builts, and experimental aircraft in addition to commercial displays.

The Flying Festival is an event not to be missed this summer. Fly-in aircraft are encouraged to bring their own tie downs and contact ATIS on 126.6 for special parking arrangements to be used during the show.



Montana Pilots Association



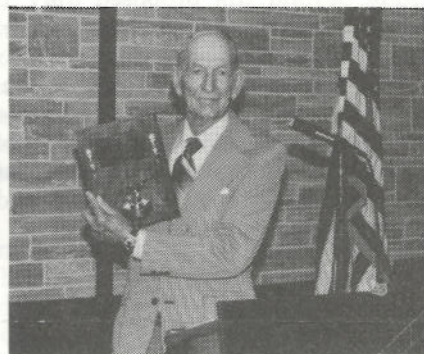
Three pilots with an estimated 140 years of flying experience, left to right, Vic Wokal, Glasgow; O.E. Markle, Glasgow; and Frank Wiley, retired director of the Montana Aeronautics Commission.



Left, Billie Bass, and Vivian Schrank during the banquet.



Gordon Sands enjoyed the festivities throughout the convention.



Les Pipin receives an award from the Glasgow City-County Airport Commission upon his retirement as a Commissioner.



Many took advantage of the "Water Hole" sponsored by the Valley Hangar and Western Flyer.

The Montana Pilots Association held their annual convention in Glasgow June 12, 13 and 14.

The theme for the 42nd annual convention was "The Good Old Days of Flying."

New officers were elected during the meeting. They are as follows:

President — Lee Baker, Lewistown.

Eastern Director — Pete Pederson, Glasgow.

Western Vice President — Pat Johnson, Helena.

Treasurer — Ray Curtis, Billings.

Eastern Vice President — Bob Hollister, Forsyth.

Western Director — Ray Tocci, Three Forks.

Approximately 100 persons attended the Saturday night banquet, which featured Paul Soderlind, who spoke about "The Lighter Side of an Airline Pilot's Life." A native Montanan, Soderlind first began flying at the age of 12. He received his commercial pilot's license at 18 and was hired by Northwest Airlines as copilot at 19. He became the nation's youngest airline captain, getting FAA airline transport pilot and NWA captain ratings at 23.

Soderlind invented the Instrument Memory Index used by NWA and now standard equipment on Boeing 747's and DC-10's. He has served as consultant to FAA administrators, Boeing Co., General Mills, 3M, Cargill and Cessna Aircraft Co.

Other highlights of the convention included a tour of Valley Industrial Park, which is currently being used as the staging area for the Northern Border natural gas pipeline, a tour of the Ft. Peck Dam and Reservoir, and a musical program by members of the Ft. Peck summer theater group.

Individual hangar reports were given for Central Hangar, Cut Bank, Gallatin Valley, Garfield Skyriders, Great Falls, Helena, Havre, Miles City and Valley. Committee reports included border crossing, airport access, and legislation committee.

Mike Ferguson, Administrator of the Aeronautics Division, gave a report on aeronautic activities and an

ssociation Convention

update on pertinent state legislation.

Evelyn Sedivy, Aeronautics Division Supervisor for Safety and Education, gave a report on aerospace education.

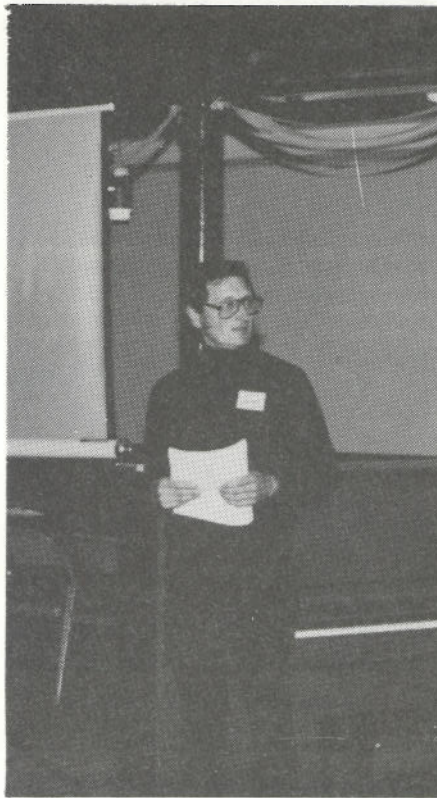
Also speaking at the convention was Mick Wilson, FAA Accident Prevention Specialist from Billings, who gave a presentation on military oil burner routes and other FAA safety programs.

Vic Wokal, of Wokal's Flying Service in Glasgow, received the Senior Pilot of the Year Award.

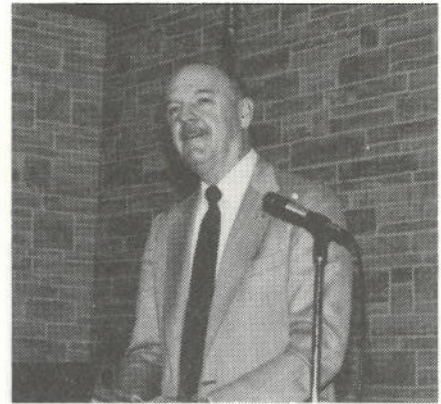
The Junior Pilot of the Year Award went to John William Stephan of Kalispell.

The Bent Prop Award was presented to Pete Pederson, sales representative for Markles, Inc. in Glasgow.

The 1982 annual convention will be held in Cut Bank. The site for the 1983 meeting has not been set and will be selected by the Aeronautics Board in the future.



Lee Baker, Lewistown, was re-elected President of the MPA.



Paul Soderlind, featured speaker at the MPA Convention.



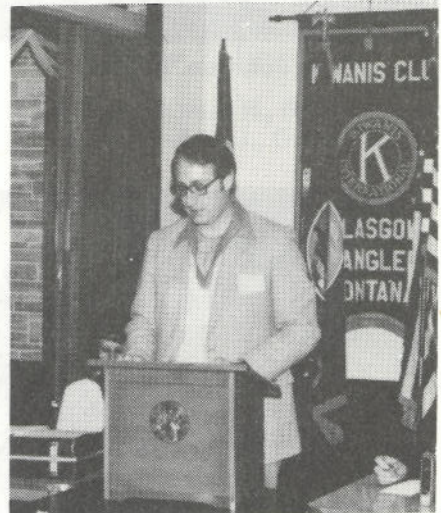
Both George Tillitt and Frank Wiley have been honored by having the airports respectively at Forsyth and Miles City named and dedicated on their behalf.



Vic Wokal, Glasgow, deservedly received the Senior Pilot of the Year Award.

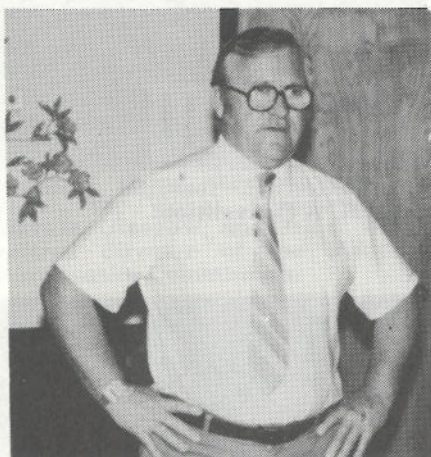


Pete Pederson "proudly" receives the Bent Prop Award.



Ray Curtis presented the annual treasurer's report.

**During the MPA
Convention Hangar
Reports Were
Received From:**



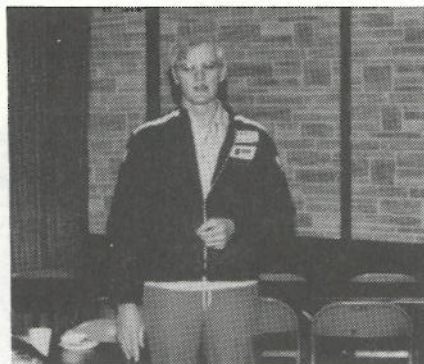
Herb Sammons, Cut Bank



Pat Johnson, Helena



Ray Tocci, Gallatin Valley



Ed Chinski, Havre



Ken Brewer, Great Falls



George Tillitt, Miles City



Dick Markle, Glasgow

Calendar

July 15 to 17 — Western States Search and Rescue Advisory Council Meeting, Helena.

July 18 & 19 — Schafer Meadows Fly-In.

July 26 to 31 — International Flying Farmers Convention, Calgary, Alberta.

July 31 — Butte Air Show, Bert Mooney Airport. Snowbirds, Canadian Reds and more. To begin at 6 p.m.

August 1 & 2 — Density Altitude Clinic, West Yellowstone.

August 1 & 2 — Airshow Alberta '81.

August 7 to 9 — Beacon Star Antique Airfield Fly-In. Sponsored by the Montana Antique Aircraft Association.

August 17 to 23 — Aviation Appreciation Week in Great Falls.

September 18 to 20 — Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell. More to come.

September 25 to 27 — North Dakota Flying Farmers Convention, Holiday Inn, Jamestown.

October 3 — Halloween Air Race, Great Falls to Jackpot.

October 23 to 25 — Saskatchewan Flying Farmers Convention, Derrick Motor Hotel, Estevan.

Low Altitude Alert

Pilots on IFR flight plans in aircraft with a MODE C transponder will have additional "eyes" checking their altitudes this spring. Beginning in May, all 20 air route traffic control centers will begin testing En Route Minimum Safe Altitude Warning, similar to the system used at airports with automatic radar tracking. If an en route aircraft is projected to go below a minimum IFR altitude, an alert will flash on the center controller's radar scope, and he will take appropriate action. (FAA GA News)

Big Sky Enters Minnesota

Big Sky Airlines is expanding its routes to include Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and Jamestown, North Dakota. This new service began June 15.

This extension increases Big Sky's air transportation and freight service to a total of four states and 19 cities. The airline currently provides service to 17 cities in Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Flights will be scheduled twice daily from Jamestown to Minneapolis/St. Paul and Bismarck, North Dakota, and return. Terry Marshall, President, noted that Bismarck is already an important air transportation center on the Big Sky route and should soon surpass Billings as the center for the company's largest traffic volume.

"Most importantly, Big Sky's entry into the Twin Cities market provides our first access to a major airline center," he said. "We are now in an excellent position to build a strong route system directly linking the eastern Montana and Dakota communities to Minneapolis/St. Paul, a national hub for connecting services."

"Big Sky's position in the Twin Cities area also opens possibilities of extending flight service into South Dakota later in the year."

Initially, Big Sky will provide service into new route cities with its fleet of 15-passenger Handley-Page Jetstream aircraft and 17-passenger Swearingen Metroliner II aircraft. The company is currently standardizing its aircraft fleet and expects to replace the Jetstream aircraft with Metroliners in the near future.

Projections for the first operating year of the Bismarck-Jamestown-Twin Cities service are passenger volume of 12,000 and air freight volume of 39 tons.



Buzz Off

The American Helicopter Society is offering \$10,000 to the first person who successfully flies a human-powered rotorcraft at least one minute at 10 feet AGL. (FAA GA News)

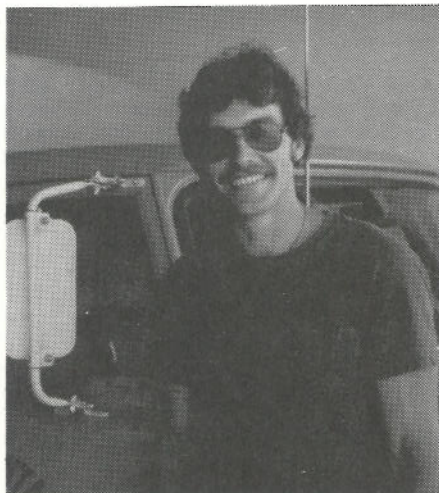
New Services Technician

Glen Sutheimer was hired June 22 as an Airport Services Technician.

Glen's duties will include performing maintenance, construction and installation on state airports, navigational aid facilities and the plant on the Helena airport. He will also perform maintenance and tune-up of equipment.

He will be working with other members of the staff in our airports and navigational aid projects throughout the state and is looking forward to learning about Montana aviation and meeting those who keep it flying.

Glen graduated from Helena High School in 1972, is married, and has two children.



Glen Sutheimer, new Airport Services Technician.

Liquor Licenses

In a formal opinion, Attorney General Mike Greely ruled that public airport authorities holding state liquor licenses are not required to pay annual fees for such licenses.

Greely told state revenue Director Ellen Feaver airport all-beverage liquor licenses are unique in state law and are exempt from the usual requirement for payment of an annual renewal fee.

CONGRATULATIONS!

FAA Certificates Issued Recently to Pilots

PRIVATE

Gillespie, Jack T., Missoula
Larsen, David E., Stevensville
Bravard, Thomas R., Havre
Christensen, David M., Kalispell
Veltkamp, Roy T., Bozeman
McKelvey, Patrick E., Helena
Botimer, Douglas A., Lincoln
Powell, Theodore J., Great Falls
Pearson, David F., Helena
Scott III, John R., Billings (Heli)
Lambott, Leonard H., Rudyard

INSTRUCTOR

Gaul, Donnel R., Missoula (Renew)
Morrison, Daniel R., Anaconda (Renew)
Lau, Martin V., Great Falls (Renew)
Mellott, Thomas H., Brady (Renew)
Valley, William J., Great Falls (Renew)
Robinson, Van Allen, Big Fork

MULTI ENGINE

Hill, Bobbie L., Florence
Sundh, Marlon, Kalispell
Steck, Larry E., Helena

ATP

Willbanks, Will C., Great Falls

COMMERCIAL

Hill, Bobbie L., Florence
Stroup, Sandra L., Bozeman
Kinna, Clarence J., Fairfield



Lenore Johnson's 4th Grade Class from Smith School in Helena during a career awareness tour.

Open House

The public is invited to attend an open house in honor of Frank Wolcott upon his retirement as the Airport Manager of Gallatin Field in Bozeman. The open house will be held Sunday, August 2, 1981, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Gallatin Field Terminal Building.

2,500 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.18 per copy, for a total cost of \$447.17, which included \$230.00 for printing and \$217.17 for distribution.

MEMBER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

PURPOSE— "To foster aviation, as an industry, as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with the Federal Government and other groups in **research, development, and advancement of aviation**; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."

July, 1981



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Don't Forget the Beacon Star Antique Airfield Fly-In, Moore—August 7-9